

THIS DECISION HAS BEEN APPEALED. THE FOLLOWING IS THE RELATED SOAH DECISION NUMBER:

SOAH DOCKET NO. 453-04-5363.M2

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

April 14, 2004

MDR Tracking #: M2-04-0984-01
IRO Certificate #: IRO 4326

The ___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) has assigned the above referenced case to ___ for independent review in accordance with TWCC Rule §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

___ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, relevant medical records, any documents utilized by the parties referenced above in making the adverse determination, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the appeal was reviewed.

The independent review was performed by a ___ physician reviewer who is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation which is the same specialty as the treating physician. The ___ physician reviewer has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to this case.

Clinical History

This 49-year-old male injured his back on ___ when attempting to lift a box higher than chest level and then twisting, causing immediate pain to his right lower back. He was treated with a steroid injection, Celebrex, Flexiril, Vicodan, moist heat, and physical therapy. An MRI was performed that showed compression fractures acute in nature involving T12 and L3, deformity of L2-not acute, and possible L1-2 disc degeneration.

Requested Service(s)

Psychological testing and biofeedback

Decision

It was determined that psychological testing and biofeedback were medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The provider was appropriate in having psychological testing and biofeedback to address psychological factors 4. The psychological testing will help guide the treatment program

with regards to physical medicine treatments, medications, and counseling by enhancing the success rate of the treatment program.

Therefore, it was determined that psychological testing and biofeedback were medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

This decision by the IRO is deemed to be a TWCC decision and order.

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of the decision and has a right to request a hearing.

If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **10** (ten) calendar days of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5 (c))

If disputing other prospective medical necessity (preauthorization) decisions a request for a hearing must be in writing, and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) calendar days of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5(c)).

This decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed or the date of fax (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.5(d)). A request for hearing and a **copy of this decision** must be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings/Appeals Clerk, Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744, Fax: 512-804-4011.

The party appealing this decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in this dispute.

Sincerely,

In accordance with Commission Rule 102.4 (h), I hereby verify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) Decision was sent to the carrier, the requestor and claimant via facsimile or U.S. Postal Service from the office of the IRO on this 14 th day of April 2004.
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